

§ 410.697

to comment on such evidence and to present other evidence which is relevant and material to the issues unless such notice is waived.

(c) *Individual charged did not file answer.* Where the individual charged filed no answer to the charges (see § 410.689), evidence in addition to that introduced at the hearing before the hearing officer may not be admitted by the Appeals Council.

§ 410.697 Decision by Appeals Council on review of hearing officer's decision.

The decision of the Appeals Council shall be based upon evidence received into the hearing record (see § 410.692(j)) and such further evidence as the Appeals Council may receive (see § 410.696) and shall either affirm, reverse, or modify the hearing officer's decision. The Appeals Council, in modifying a hearing officer's decision suspending the individual for a specified period shall in no event reduce a period of suspension to less than 1 year, or in modifying a hearing officer's decision to disqualify an individual shall in no event impose a period of suspension of less than 1 year. Where the Appeals Council affirms or modifies a hearing officer's decision, the period of suspension or disqualification shall be effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision. Where a period of suspension or disqualification is initially imposed by the Appeals Council, such suspension or disqualification shall be effective from the date of the Appeals Council's decision. The decision of the Appeals Council will be in writing and a copy of the decision will be mailed to the individual at his last known address and to the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee.

[36 FR 23760, Dec. 14, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 17709, Aug. 30, 1972; 62 FR 38454, July 18, 1997]

§ 410.698 Dismissal by Appeals Council.

The Appeals Council may dismiss a request for the review of any proceedings instituted under § 410.688 pending before it in any of the following circumstances:

20 CFR Ch. III (4-1-00 Edition)

(a) *Upon request of party.* Proceedings pending before the Appeals Council may be discontinued and dismissed upon written application of the party or parties who filed the request for review provided there is no party who objects to discontinuance and dismissal.

(b) *Death of party.* Proceedings before the Appeals Council may be dismissed upon death of a party against whom charges have been preferred.

(c) *Request for review not timely filed.* A request for review of a hearing officer's decision shall be dismissed when the party has failed to file a request for review within the time specified in § 410.694 and such time is not extended for good cause.

§ 410.699 Reinstatement after suspension or disqualification.

(a) *General.* An individual shall be automatically reinstated to serve as representative before the Administration at the expiration of any period of suspension. In addition, after 1 year from the effective date of any suspension or disqualification, an individual who has been suspended or disqualified from acting as a representative in proceedings before the Administration may petition the Appeals Council for reinstatement prior to the expiration of a period of suspension or following a disqualification order. The petition for reinstatement shall be accompanied by any evidence the individual wishes to submit. The Appeals Council shall notify the Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Policy, or his or her designee, of the receipt of the petition and grant him 30 days in which to present a written report of any experiences which the Administration may have had with the suspended or disqualified individual during the period subsequent to the suspension or disqualification. A copy of any such report shall be made available to the suspended or disqualified individual.

(b) *Basis of action.* A request for revocation of a suspension or a disqualification shall not be granted unless the Appeals Council is reasonably satisfied that the petitioner is not likely in the future to conduct himself contrary to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Administration.